

English A2 · Prepositions and connectors

Elementary English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The bridges

A connector is a bridge: it has two ends, and both ends must land somewhere.

The time zoom

Preposition	Zoom level	Examples
in	the big containers	in July, in 2026, in the morning, in winter
on	days and dates	on Monday, on May 1st, on my birthday
at	exact points	at seven o'clock, at noon, at night

Use the evidence

in the morning, but at night — the one exception in the most useful phrase.

Your turn: pick the zoom

Your turn

The test is ____ Monday ____ nine o'clock.

- A. in ... at
- B. on ... at
- C. at ... on
- D. on ... in

The basic four

Connector	The bridge	Example
and	adds	I like tea, and she likes coffee.
but	contrasts	I like tea, but I don't like coffee.
so	result	It was late, so I went home.
because	reason	I went home because it was late.

Use the evidence

because points back at the reason; so points forward at the result.

Your turn: one bridge

Your turn

Which sentence is correct?

- ☐ A. Because I was late, so I went home.
- ☐ B. Because I was late, I went home.
- ☐ C. Because I was late, but I went home.
- ☐ D. Because so I was late, I went home.

Sequence and the phone that knows

Events in order

First, we had class. Then we had lunch. After that, we played football. Finally, I went home.

I was cooking when the phone rang. While I was cooking, the phone rang.

Your turn: the twin trap

Your turn

_____ it rained, we played football.

- A. Although ... but
- B. Although
- C. Because ... so
- D. Although ... so

The no-preposition family

- 1 **The instinct** Every time phrase seems to want in, on or at.
- 2 **The exception family** today, tomorrow, yesterday, tonight, next week, last year.
- 3 **The fix** I will see you tomorrow — the word brings its own time.

Decision

Never on today, never in tomorrow.

Say it aloud

First, I woke up at seven — because my alarm rang, and because my cat sat on my face.

I was sleepy, but I went to school. It was Monday, so nobody was happy.

Although the homework was long, I finished it.

Then I slept. Finally, peace.

Check yourself

- The test is on Monday. — a day is a floor.
- It was late, so I went home. — one bridge per river.
- Although it rained, we played. — although never shares with but.
- I will see you tomorrow. — the today family needs no preposition.